

with the pace of outbound flights and surface cargo. H.R. 3479 would provide for specific authorization levels to maintain strong and consistent Federal funding for this program. From this perspective, I believe H.R. 3479 is a cost-saving measure for the Federal Government in the long run. If our guard is let down, and the program becomes inevitably unable to keep up with the demand of increased inspections, the value of all the inspections conducted to date and the value of all Federal resources invested to date lessens and becomes jeopardized in its entirety. Should the snake ever become established in Hawaii, the responsibility and need to control for it in yet another location would ensue, causing the expenditure of additional Federal funds. The costs of the adverse impact to the economy of any local community hit by the introduction of the brown tree snake would be beyond estimating and difficult to bear.

Apart from the concern over consistent and adequate year-to-year Federal funding for interdiction, is the larger, more long-term concern about controlling for the snake to restore and protect Guam's environment. To date, efforts have largely focused, with limited and inconsistent resources, on interdiction. I believe more can and should be devoted towards protecting Guam's environment and native species. I believe brown tree snake control work carried out on Guam should be tied to, consistent with, and made an integral component of species recovery efforts. In this regard, I am pleased H.R. 3479 provides a specific authorization of appropriations for the Fish and Wildlife Service to participate in this partnership. I would also note that this legislation provides for research authorization with the long-term goal of eradication and with the near-term focus on large-scale reduction.

H.R. 3479 also provides important direction and purpose for the Brown Tree Snake Technical Working Group that has convened over the years to provide a forum for the partners across the levels of government to coordinate their efforts. The legislation outlines specific duties and activities for the working group, including the evaluation of Federal activity and funding. It is hoped that the working group's evaluation and reporting would provide Congress with authoritative and useful information to consider in the appropriations process. Furthermore, I believe the five-year authorization period contained within the legislation can yield a process by which we are able to evaluate the progress of the work. Without the direction and authorization embodied in this legislation, I am concerned that the Federal Government will forever be engaged in an effort to prevent the brown tree snake from leaving Guam, and will likely prove unsuccessful in the long run. Without this legislation, I am also concerned that future efforts will be focused on interdiction and interdiction alone at the expense of Guam's environmental and economic interests.

Although, not all provisions of the bill as introduced have been retained in the version before the House today, I am pleased that we have been able to craft a product that I believe will encourage more direction, coordination and consistency in year-to-year funding for brown tree snake interdiction, control, research, and eradication efforts. I look forward to continuing to work with the leadership of the committees with jurisdiction to enact this legislation.

IN RECOGNITION OF SABRINA USSERY

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 29, 2004

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, on September 11, 2004, teens from around the Third District gathered on the campus of Jacksonville State University to remember the events of 9/11, and to reflect on the impact of those events on their life today.

One of the speakers that day was Sabrina Ussery, a twelfth grade student at Lanett High School in Lanett, Alabama. In honor of her words and in recognition of her gift for writing, I am placing her entire speech in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD so that others may have the opportunity to hear her thoughts about that fateful day.

The text of her speech is as follows. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for the House's attention to this important matter on this important day.

ARMY JUNIOR ROTC: MOTIVATING YOUNG PEOPLE TO BE BETTER CITIZENS

As freshmen, we entered Lanett's JROTC program without knowledge of how to serve ourselves, let alone our country. Also, being fourteen at the time of the 9/11 occurrences, fear, above all other responses, was the primary expression brought forth by the announcement made over our intercom that morning. Terrified as we were, we looked to our Army Instructors for answers. This is where our lives and experiences as well-rounded cadets began.

The core curriculum of the Army JROTC program at Lanett High School emphasizes the importance of a citizen's involvement in today's world at the local, state, and national levels. This curriculum teaches adolescents the responsibilities of being a citizen and offers opportunities for them to experience, first hand, the reward of being informed. In an attempt to keep us up to date with our current events, classroom debates and/or discussions were held both in and out of class. These discussions sparked interests and opinions in our young minds as we began to ponder the idea of being, for the first time, independent minded individuals.

Our Army Instructors also encouraged us on a daily basis to volunteer and take part in community events: Color guard presentations, dedications of the flag, memorial services, etc. At this point, the instructors understood something we didn't. In our minds, the ideals and practices of patriotism and participation were nothing more than routines. It wasn't until the morning of 9/11 that we began to realize the purpose, meaning, and emotion behind being a cadet.

It was 9:52 A.M. when the intercom came on, and we expected a fellow cadet to recite the pledge as a part of our daily routine. To our surprise, it was our librarian reporting to the school the events of the morning. Out of confusion, our eyes fell upon Major McQueen, our Senior Army Instructor. Behind his common readjustment of his glasses, we saw tears beginning to roll down his cheeks. He then turned towards our classroom flag and saluted.

The temperature seemed to suddenly drop, and we were all frightened. As we stood and watched our hero, our teacher, our friend cry over such an announcement, we realized the importance and devastation behind the occurrences of the morning. We knew something wasn't right. It was then that maturity fell upon our shoulders.

As time passed, those students who were cadets during the time of 9/11 attacks be-

came key leaders throughout the school and community in both deed and speech.

Now, not only do they hold their heads higher and walk with a prouder step, the Panther Battalion as a whole has taken it upon itself to become more involved in the community. We are now co-volunteers with current Junior Achievement participants in teaching elementary students the importance of their family, community, country, and world. In addition, the JROTC program at Lanett High has had the School Board of Education for Chambers County pass a mandatory requirement for incoming freshmen to complete and pass a minimum of one semester of the class. This has and will continue to aid in the raising up of well informed, active citizens in tomorrow's America.

THE CADET CREED:

I am an Army Junior ROTC cadet.

I will always conduct myself to bring credit to my family, country, school, and the corps of cadets.

I am loyal and patriotic. I am the future of the United States of America.

I do not lie, cheat, or steal and will always be held accountable for my actions and deeds.

I will always practice good citizenship and patriotism.

I will work hard to improve my mind and strengthen my body.

I will seek the mantle of leadership and stand prepared to uphold the Constitution and the American way of life.

May God grant me the strength to always live by this creed."

MONTANA WATER CONTRACTS EXTENSION ACT OF 2004

SPEECH OF

HON. DENNIS R. REHBERG

OF MONTANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 28, 2004

Mr. REHBERG. Mr. Speaker, today the House will consider H.R. 5009, legislation to extend water service contracts between the United States and specific water users in Montana.

The bill is non-controversial and the House Resources Committee unanimously passed H.R. 5009 on September 22, 2004.

My legislation affects 5 water entities in central and southwest Montana, including the City of Helena and 4 specific irrigation contractors. It permits the Bureau of Reclamation and these local water entities to extend their existing long-term water service contracts for up to another 2 years, so that the parties may negotiate new long-term contracts.

This bill is a legislative fix to a bureaucratic situation. Most of the contracts addressed in my legislation are due to expire on December 31, 2004. Contract renewal negotiations between these local water districts and the Bureau of Reclamation have been delayed by Missouri River Endangered Species Act studies and other issues. Without this legislation, the water service contracts would expire at the end of the year and the local entities would lose significant water service. The contract extensions will maintain the current water supply for the specified areas under the current terms and conditions during the renegotiation process.

I urge my colleagues to support this important measure and vote in favor of maintaining water supply in Montana.